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#278

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House bill
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Introduced by Mr. BRYAN, of Rutherford.

W. W. Holden, Printer to the State.

A BILL TO PREVENT AND PUNISH EXTORTION.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That from and after the passing of this act, any dealer or speculator in clothing or materials of clothing, shoes, leather, rawhides, meat, grain, flour, fish, coffee, sugar, tea, salt, saltpetre or other necessary of life or dead victual whatsoever, who shall, during the continuance of the existing war, sell or dispose of any of the said articles at exorbitant or unreasonable advance or profit on the cost thereof, or shall refuse to sell or dispose of the same for cash, at fair or reasonable rates or prices; and all other persons who shall sell or dispose of any of the said articles at unreasonable or exorbitant rates or prices, or at unreasonable advance or profit on the cost thereof, shall be deemed guilty of extortion; and, on conviction thereof by verdict or confession, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That in all cases arising under this act, it shall be left to the jury to determine what are exorbitant or unreasonable rates or prices, due regard being had to the circumstances of each case.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That no person prosecuted under this act, shall be allowed any continuance or postponement of trial at the first term of the Court at which he shall be indicted, unless on affidavit of the necessary absence of a material and necessary witness; and no tech-

6 nical or formal exception to any process, indictment or
7 other pleading shall avail the defendant, but the case shall
8 be tried and judged according to the merits, without any
9 regard to form.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That corporations, by
2 their corporate names, shall be liable to indictment and
3 punishment for extortion; and where corporations are in-
4 dicted or convicted of extortion, they shall be liable to a
5 fine and to forfeiture of charter, at the discretion of the
6 Court.

Hollinger Corp.
pH 8.5